A tannery modernisation scheme has been launched to provide financial assistance to the existing tannery units for undertaking modernisation programmes for a positive environmental impact, becoming competitive, effecting better capacity utilisation, achieving productivity gains and reducing wastage. The scheme would initially be in operation from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 and cover about 30% of the existing tanneries during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) The assistance under the Tannery Modernisation Scheme will be limited to 30% of cost of machines subject to a maximum of Rs. 28 lakhs in case of small scale units and 20% for non-small scale units subject to a maximum of Rs. 35 lakhs. Implementation of the scheme and monitoring will be done by the Project Management Unit of the National Leather Development Programme (PMU-NLDP) through SIDBIs/Hs/Nationalised Banks/SFCs.

Clearance of pending projects

1665. SHRI C. RAMA CHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of project schemes and programmes are pending with Government awaiting clearance from various departments;

(b) what are the details of projects involved a financial expenditure of more than Rs. 50 crores in various sectors like irrigation and power;

(c) whether is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has submitted several memoranda requesting early clearance of the projects; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearing these projects, schemes and programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AN *D* PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) According to the details furnished by the Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure, as on 6th March, 2000,20 projects in various sectors including Irrigation and Power were in the process of appraisal. Details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement *(see* below).

(c) No reference has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh either in the Planning Commission or in the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation for clearance of projects.

(d) All project proposals costing Rs. 50 crores and above are cleared by the Government through the Expenditure Finance Committee and Public Investment Board procedures within the prescribed time limit except in the cases where the information furnished is inadequate.

Statement

Projects/Schemes costing Rs. 50 crores and above under appraisal

S.N	Ministry/Department	Project/Scheme	Date of Receipt
1.	M/o Water Resources	Central Assistance for flood control schemes in Brahmaputra-Barak Basin	25.2.2000
2.	M/o Water Resources	Critical Anti Erosion Works in Ganga Basin States	25.2.2000
3.	M/o Railways	Availing of Direct Traction Power Supply from NTPC at Korba and Bhilai	16.2.2000
4.	M/o Railways M/o	Gauge Conversion of Gooty Renigunta	16.2.2000
5.	Civil Aviation	Construction of Domestic Terminal Phase-II at Mumbai	1.3.2000
6.	M/o Petroleum and Natural Gas	Expansion of Refining Capacity at Cochin Refineries Ltd.	21.2.2000
7.	M/o Power	Power Transmission Line Kishenpur to Moga	22.1.2000
8.	M/o Environment and Forest	Additional Component under the National River Conservation Plan in Chennai	25.2.2000
9.	M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation	Modernisation of Statistical System in India	1.3.2000
10.	M/o Agriculture and Cooperation	Macro Management of Agriculture Supplementation/ Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans	17.2.2000
11.	M/o Agriculture and Cooperation	Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North	10.1.2000
12.	D/o Mines	Setting up of New Zinc Smelter at Kapasan, Chittaurgarh District Rajasthan	16.2.2000
13.	D/o SSI and Agro. Inds.	Rural Employment Generation : Programme of Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC)	29.10.1999

S.N	Ministry/Depart ment	Project/Scheme	Date of Receipt
14.	M/o Commerce	Proposal of Tea Board for Revolving Corpus Fund	22.10.1999
15.	M/o Textiles	Workshed for Power Loom Workers	28.12.1999
16.	M/o Surface Transport	Acquisition of 3 Nos. New Building LR II Size Crude Oil Tankers of 83,500 DWT by Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	PIB Meeting to fixed
17.	M/o Power	Feasibility Report for Kolahpur-Ponda Transmission System	PIB Meeting for 7.3.2000
18.	M/o Water Resources	Construction of Pagladiya Dam, Assam	PIB Meeting to be fixed
19.	M/o Power	RCE for Tehri Dam and Hydro Electric Power Plant (4 x 250 MW)—UP	PIB Meeting. fixed for 7.3.2000
20.	M/o Petroleum and Natural Gas	Withdrawal of Madras Refinery Ltd. from AROCHEM—Joint Venture	PIB Meeting to fixed

Inclusion of MPs in projects funded by Centre

†1666. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharatiya Janata Party MP's have requested that their services should be utilised in various projects funded by the Centre, usually M.L.A's and the State Governments are involved in such projects; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's intention in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No request has been received from the Members of Parliament for utilisation of the services for various projects in the Central sector. However, a reference has been made by Shri Ramji Das Rishidev, M.P. regarding use of services of the Members of Parliament in implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes like Rozgar Yojana, Indira Aawas Yojana and Development of Women and Children of Rural Area Scheme (DWACRA) sponsored by the Central Government.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.